

Ms. Schack has been involved in local district level committees throughout the years, including: Mathematics Curriculum Writing Team, Assessment Writing Team, and Curriculum Review Committee. During her years in the classroom setting, she served as a Singapore Math trainer which required serving the district's ten elementary schools. Most recently, this past year Ms. Schack took the lead in establishing and implementing the district's New Teacher Math Curriculum Training and Beyond Math In Focus Training. Currently as the K-8 Mathematics Coach/Content Lead, she works closely with teachers to increase student engagement, allow for problem solving within and beyond the classroom, and aid in creating a structure of learning in the classroom.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Ms. Schack on her achievement and this honor of receiving the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RUBY WILSON

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Ruby Wilson, a legendary Memphis Blues singer who was known as the "Queen of Beale Street" and was beloved not only by the city of Memphis but by fans all over the world. Ruby Wilson was born in 1948 in Fort Worth, Texas before making Memphis, Tennessee her home in 1972. Over time, Ruby became one of the greatest ambassadors for Memphis and Blues music alike.

Ruby's passion for singing began early as a child in Texas singing in her church choir, which was directed by her mother. Through the choir, Ruby performed with notable gospel singers Rosetta Tharpe, The Blind Boys of Alabama and Reverend James Cleveland. At age 15, Ruby accepted renowned gospel singer Shirley Caesar's invitation to sing backup during a summer tour.

During this same time in her youth, Ruby learned her love of the Blues from her father, who was an associate of famed guitarist and blues singer Freddie King. It was time spent with her father listening to Muddy Waters and other Blues musicians on the radio that influenced her future music career. This included listening to Memphis Blues legend B.B. King, whom she met in Texas at age 14. They formed a friendship that lasted his lifetime. It was then that B.B. King named Ruby his goddaughter, six years before she would sing with him for the first time.

By 1972, Ruby had lived and worked in Chicago singing gospel and directing church choirs, and had returned to Texas to sing jazz. She was touring by then and had, on occasions, performed in Memphis, where she met Stax Records songwriter, recording artist and producer Isaac Hayes, who suggested she move there. After relocating to Memphis, Ruby taught kindergarten for eight years while building her music career on the nightclub stages of Beale Street and surrounding venues, including Club Handy, Rum Boogie Café, Club Royale, Mallard's, Alfred's, Silky 'O Sullivan's, The Blues Room, In The Alley on Beale,

Neil's, Bosco's, 50/50 Tower, The Spot, The Other Place, Beale Street Blues Club, Elvis Presley's (on Beale), and the New Daisy and Old Daisy Theaters. Ruby was also a regular performer at B.B. King's Blues Club and its upstairs restaurant, Itta Bena.

Ruby enjoyed new experiences and performing in new venues across the globe. Throughout her career, Ruby performed in Asia, Europe and New Zealand for audiences that included British and Monégasque royalty. She also performed for U.S. President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore, and she was a featured performer at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival in 2008, 2011 and 2012. In addition to touring, Ruby Wilson recorded 10 albums and worked alongside Ray Charles, the Four Tops, Willie Nelson, Isaac Hayes, Al Green's Full Gospel Tabernacle Choir in Memphis and countless others. She also appeared in over 10 major films, including *The Firm* (1993), *The Client* (1994), *The People vs. Larry Flynt* (1996), *Black Snake Moan* (2006), and *Delta Rising: A Blues Documentary* (2008).

Ruby was the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions. She earned the title "Queen of Beale Street" in 1992 and has received the "Authentic Beale Street Musician Award," the "Memphis Sound Award for Best Entertainer," the "Blues Ball Award: Special Achievement," the "Willie Mitchell Jus Blues Award," and the "W.C. Handy Heritage Awards: Lifetime Achievement." Ruby also received the St. Jude Children's Hospital "Supporter Award," the "Networking for Memphis Community Service Award," and the "Arc of the Mid-South Community Leader Award." She has been inducted into the African American Hall of Fame, the Afro-American Walk of Fame at Lemoyne Owen College in Memphis and has a brass note in her honor on the Beale Street Walk of Fame. Ruby Wilson received accolades from critics and fans throughout her career and she will always be remembered for her great voice and warm personality.

For the city of Memphis, Ruby Wilson was more than just the Queen of Beale Street. She possessed a voice that was sought after by businesses and politicians for television commercials and radio ads because hers was a credible voice of endorsement. She recorded for small local businesses and I am forever grateful for the ads that she recorded for me and the support that she gave me. I am also thankful for the opportunity to have watched her perform many times in Memphis, including at her last benefit performance at B.B. King's Blues Club on July 31st, less than two weeks before her passing. As always, she was beautiful and smiling while performing to a packed house as was befitting of her life, achievements, contributions and memory.

Ruby Wilson's passing places her on the same level, if not higher, as many Memphis legendary geniuses that we've recently lost, including Elvis Presley's guitarist Scott Moore, Stax Records and American Sound Studio producer Chip Moman, The Memphis Horns saxophone and trumpet players Andrew Love and Wayne Jackson, and Maurice White, founder of the multi-Grammy Award winning music group Earth, Wind and Fire.

Ruby Wilson passed away on Friday, August 12, 2016 at 68 years of age. She is survived by her daughters Shallisa Alexander and Stacey Ragston, her sons Keith and Kenneth Moseley, and 12 grandchildren and five great-

grandchildren. Ruby Wilson had a unique and incredible voice that Memphis, Beale Street, the entire music community and all of her fans around the world will miss. Hers was a life well-lived.

COMMEMORATING THE BEGINNING OF WORLD WAR II

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the date was September 1, 1939. It was a date that would change the world forever. Nazi Germany, under Adolf Hitler, invaded Poland by air, land, and sea, igniting the Second World War and throwing the world into turmoil. Hitler used what is known as the "blitzkrieg strategy" to occupy Poland. He attacked the country by air to destroy its infrastructure; meanwhile, he directed a massive land and sea invasion to take the nation. Poland's troops and military were unequipped to effectively fight the Germans, so consequently Poland quickly fell under the control of Germany and the Soviet Union. Hitler had hoped that Britain and France would tolerate the invasion like they had when Hitler invaded Sudetenland and Czechoslovakia. However, the invasion of Poland was one invasion too many, and it significantly altered the course of history, launching the allied and axis powers into a full scale world war.

Germany initially intended to invade Poland on August 26, not September 1. Hitler had signed a nonaggression pact with the Soviet Union on August 23 to ensure that the USSR would not come to Poland's aid, and within the treaty, Hitler and Stalin agreed to divide Poland between them once conquered. However, Hitler made a last minute decision to postpone the attack because, on August 25, Britain signed the Polish-British Common Defense Pact, guaranteeing Poland military support if invaded. Hitler utilized false propaganda throughout the next few days in an attempt to justify Germany's impending invasion of Poland and to prevent Britain from coming to its aid. Hitler secretly attacked small installations inside Germany and framed it on Poland, attempting to pose as the victim instead of the aggressor. The propaganda failed, though, and both Britain and France entered the conflict when Germany overtook Poland.

The breakout of WWII, however, cannot be attributed to any single event, but rather an accumulation of issues that climaxed in a destructive standoff between the Axis powers (Germany, Italy, Japan, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and Bulgaria) and the Allies (The United States, Great Britain, France and—later—the Soviet Union). The world had been anticipating war for a long time preceding Adolf Hitler's invasion of Poland. The global balance was unstable after World War I (initially and ironically considered "the War to End All Wars") and international tensions remained high. Germany especially was dealing with significant instability and neglect as a consequence of the First World War, and this national crisis led to the election of Adolf Hitler. Hitler's invasion on this day 77 years ago provoked Britain and France to declare war against the malicious power on September 3,